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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/715,061	11/17/2003	Jim C. Ta	LEDS.00114	7028

38851 7590 12/29/2006  
GARDERE/EDS  
GARDERE WYNNE SEWELL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  
3000 THANKSGIVING TOWER  
1601 ELM STREET  
DALLAS, TX 75201-4761

EXAMINER
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WU, JUNCHUN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2196

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	12/29/2006	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/715,061

Applicant(s)

TA, JIM C.

Examiner

Junchun Wu

Art Unit

2196

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/17/2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-39 are pending in this application.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-9, 12-22, 25-35, and 38-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Capossela et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,897,642 hereafter "Capossela"), and in view of Almond et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,112,024 hereafter "Almond").

4. For claims 1,14, and 27, Capossela teaches a method for controlling code in a multi-developer software development environment (col.2 lines 10-12), the method comprising: receiving a request from a requesting user to modify one of the software components (col.7 lines 36-41); determining whether the software component has been checked out by another user (col.7 lines 55-58; similar function as RequestModifyObject, one of the variables which is pbCancel set to true if the object has been checked out); providing the requesting user with a modifiable copy of the one of the software component if the software component has not been checked out by another user (col.11 lines 38-40), but Capossela does not teach identifying a plurality of software components as nonmodifiable and preventing access and modification to the non-modifiable objects. However, Almond teaches identifying a plurality of software

Art Unit: 2196

components as nonmodifiable and preventing access and modification to the non-modifiable objects (col.39 lines 27-33 & lines 39-50; ObjectCycle performs operations in all objects in development environment and prevents users who have not checked out the object to modify and prevents users access control). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Capossela's teachings by identifying a plurality of software components as non-modifiable and preventing access and modification to the non-modifiable objects as taught by Almond in order to give the user flexibility in their access right and roles so that user can do their development work most effectively (Almond, col.39 lines 52-53).

5. For claims 2,15, and 28, Capossela teaches presenting the requesting user with an indication that the software component has been checked out by another user and is not available for modification if the object has been checked out by another user (col.8 lines 1-8).

6. For claims 3,16, and 29, Capossela teaches creating a backup copy of the software component prior to providing the user with a modifiable copy of the software component (col.5 lines 52-59).

7. For claims 4,17, and 30, Capossela does not disclose updating a file indicating that the software component is checked out, the identity of the user that checked out the software component, the date the software component was checked out, and the time the software component was checked out, but Almond teaches updating a file indicating that the software

Art Unit: 2196

component is checked out, the identity of the user that checked out the software component, the date the software component was checked out, and the time the software component was checked out (col.44 lines 22-25).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Capossela's teachings by updating a file indicating that the software component is checked out, the identity of the user that checked out the software component, the date the software component was checked out, and the time the software component was checked out as taught by Almond in order to let users to view the status of the objects before they perform any actions (Almond, col.44 lines 24-25).

8. For claims 5,18, and 31, Capossela teaches prompting the requesting user to provide information about what is intended to be changed in the software component (col.1 lines 29-34; using one of the features of Visual Source Safe which is comparing files difference let the users to know what is to be changed in the software component).

9. For claims 6,19, and 32, Capossela teaches updating a file indicating the changes intended be made to the software component (col.1 lines 35-40).

10. For claims 7,20, and 33, Capossela teaches the software component is an object (This is a well-known concept in object-oriented technologies. The terms "component" and "object" are often used synonymously).

Art Unit: 2196

11. For claims 8,21, and 34, Capossela teaches the method as recited in claim 4, wherein the file is one of a table and a database (col.1 lines 41-46).

12. For claims 9,22, and 35, Capossela teaches the method as recited in claim 6, wherein the file is one of a table and a database (col.1 lines 41-46).

13. For claims 12,25, and 38, Capossela teaches determining that the requesting user requests to check the software component back in (col.5 lines 60-64); and saving an updated software component, indicating that the software component is checked in, and indicating that the software component is not modifiable (col.8 lines 48-54), but Capossela does not teach prompting the requesting user to enter a description of what has changed to the software component. However, Almond teaches prompting the requesting user to enter a description of what has changed to the software component (col.45 lines 13-15). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Capossela's teachings by prompting the requesting user to enter a description of what has changed to the software component as taught by Almond in order to provide the information so that the user's team member know which objects had been changed and what has changed to the objects by users (col.44 lines 22-25).

Art Unit: 2196

14. For claims 13, 26, and 39, Almond teaches updating a file indicating that the software component is checked back in, the date and time checked in, the identity of the developer who checked the software component back in, and the nature of the changes made to the software component (Almond, col.44 lines 22-27).

15. Claims 10, 11, 23, 24, 36, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Capossela, in view of Almond and in further view of Miller et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 20040088647 thereafter “Miller”).

16. For claims 10, 23, and 36, both Capossela and Almond do not disclose determining whether the requesting user wishes to send a message to the user who currently has the object checked out; prompting the requesting user to indicate the message to be sent to the user who currently has the software component checked out; and sending the message to the user who currently has the software component checked out, but Miller teach determining whether the requesting user wishes to send a message to the user who currently has the object checked out; and sending the message to the user who currently has the software component checked out (0049; 0050 lines 9-12; email notifications may be manually used by each use while users desired to check in or check out objects.); and prompting the requesting user to indicate the message to be sent to the user who currently has the software component checked out (0039 lines 13-16).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Capossela and the teachings of Almond, and with the

Art Unit: 2196

teachings of Miller by determining whether the requesting user wishes to send a message to the user who currently has the object checked out; prompting the requesting user to indicate the message to be sent to the user who currently has the software component checked out; and sending the message to the user who currently has the software component checked out.

The motivation is that in a multi-user software development environment, the version control or file processing system apparently become very critical. Each user has a different permission or privilege level to check in/check out objects. Thus, by using an email message or sending a notification, users would know the availability of the files and status of the files in the a shared workspace environment (Miller, 0012)

17. For claims 11,24, and 37, Miller teaches determining the method the requesting user wished the message to be sent to the user who currently has the software component checked out; and sending the message by the method specified by the requesting user (0049; 0050 lines 9-12; email notifications may be manually used by each use while users desired to check in or check out objects.).



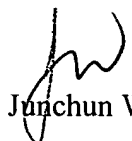
Art Unit: 2196


***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Junchun Wu whose telephone number is 571-270-1250. The examiner can normally be reached on Flexible.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nabil El-hady can be reached on 571-272-3963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
Junchun Wu

  
NABIL M. EL-HADY  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER